

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

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O 131335Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CM

SUBJECT: 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY REPORT

REFERENCE: YAOUNDE 4397

1. EMBASSY SHOULD STRICTLY CONFINE SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING REPORTED REFTEL TO REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC FACTUAL INFORMATION (PARA THREE BELOW). YOU SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT INVITE NOR INCLUDE IN DRAFT COUNTRY REPORT INTERPRETIVE OR OTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT OF GURC ON FACTS OR TRENDS OF COUNTRY'S HUMAN SITUATION. FURTHER EMBASSY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT SHOW TO OR SHARE WITH GURC ANY PROPOSED DRAFT REPORT THAT MISSION MAY ALREADY HAVE DONE. FINAL REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO GURC AS WELL AS ALL OTHER COUNTRIES ONLY UPON DEPARTMENT'S EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION. IN SUM, EMBASSY SHOULD OF COURSE AVOID ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT SUGGEST, IN FACT OR APPEARANCE, THAT GURC IS BEING INVITED TO CO-DRAFT OR CLEAR DEPARTMENT'S COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON CAMEROON.

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2. COUNTRY HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS TO CONGRESS MUST IN FACT ACCORD SCRUPULOUSLY WITH LETTER AND INTENT OF U. S. LEGISLATION THAT REQUIRES THEM TO BE INDEPENDENT AND OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENTS BY DEPARTMENT DRAWING UPON BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT FROM ALL SOURCES,

ESPECIALLY INCLUDING OUR FIELD POSTS. THE DEPARTMENT

ALONE IS HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE ACCURACY AND OBJECTIVITY
OF EACH COUNTRY REPORT.

3. EMBASSY MAY PROPERLY INVITE OFFICIAL GURC RESPONSE TO
FOLLOWING:

-- HOW MANY, IF ANY, POLITICAL DETAINEES ARE THERE IN
CAMEROON?

-- IF THERE ARE DETAINEES, WHAT JUDICIAL OR OTHER DUE
PROCESS PROVISIONS ARE AVAILABLE? ARE THESE APPLIED IN
FACT? ANY RECENT OR CURRENT EXAMPLES?

-- WHAT ARE PRISON CONDITIONS FOR CIVIL OR POLITICAL
PRISONERS?

-- WHAT GUARANTEES ARE THERE FOR ENJOYMENT OF CIVIL AND
POLITICAL LIBERTIES?

-- TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS BEEN
REALIZED WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO MEETING BASIC HUMAN
NEEDS, I. E. HOUSING, FOOD, BASIC EDUCATION AND HEALTH
CARE. FOREGOING LIST INTENDED AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF KINDS OF
FACTUAL INFORMATION THAT GURC MIGHT WISH TO PROVIDE AT
SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING. EMBASSY'S OWN BEST JUDGEMENT
(BASED ON OFFICIAL AS WELL AS UNOFFICIAL SOURCES) AS TO
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ACCURACY OF RESPONSES WOULD OF COURSE BE THE SOLE
PERSPECTIVE REFLECTED IN THE DRAFT REPORT. CHRISTOPHER

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